end of 1986-87. When everything is complete at Jalna, I would like to know the reason why the STD has not started at Jalna. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister that as soon as the coaxial cable laying is completed between Jalna and Nanded which are the most important towns of the Marathwada region, whether the STD service will start immediately.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, we recognise the importance of those towns. Therefore, we have made a scheme for providing coaxial cable transmission between Aurangabad and Jalna, from Jalna to Parbhani and from Parbhani to Nanded. I have given at what stage it is now in all the three places. And the moment this transmission system by coaxial cable is completed, we will connect all the stations. As regards Jalna, that will be provided during this very year.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, I am very happy and thankful to the hon. Minister that he has given an assurance to start the STD service at Jalna. Sir, the coaxial cable laying is complete between Aurangabad and Jalna. But there is a very large waiting list of telephones. Will it be cleared as early as possible? Secondly, Sir, the laying of coaxial line has already become an old thing. Now, new science and technology is being introduced in the telecommunication system. Is it possible to start an electronic exchange system at Nanded, Parbhani, Jalna and Aurangabad in the near future? If so, what is the position?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, I can give the type of equipment that Nanded, Jalna and Parbhani had, and the type of expansion we want to give it. And it is not possible or even necessary to provide an electronic exchange. We manufacture in this country all the three types of exchanges—strowger, crossbar and electronic. And we are using all of them. To improve the working of the system in our country, I can assure the hon. Member that whatever type that be, it will work reliably and with improved transmission facilities, all that is desired will be done.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय: मान्यवर, यह मंत्री जी के उत्तर से संबंधित है। जालना के लिए तो मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि एस०टी०डी० की सुविधा इस वर्ष 86-87 में दे दी जायेगी। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि नांदेड और परभनी में भी एस०टी०डी० की सुविधा देने के लिए समय की कोई निश्चित सीमा बता सकेंगे कि कब हो जायेगा ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा: श्रीमन्, मैंने पहले ही बताया है कि जालना में किस वर्ष प्रारम्भ हो जाएगी, और दूसरी जगहों, परभनी और नांदेड में बाकी काम इस वर्ष शुरू हो जायेगा, सम्पूर्ण हो जायेगा और अगले वर्ष निश्चित रूप से इन दोनों जगहों में एस०टी०डी० दे दी जायेगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 85.

Marketing of Ranitidine Tablets by M/s. GLAXO

*85. DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA:†

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Glaxo has started marketing of Ranitidine tablets without industrial licence and without producing bulk drug in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the product has been marketed without obtaining price approval;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the product has been manufactured by a small-scale company known as Biotech Pharma;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Joseph Leon D'souza.

(d) if so, whether such an activity amounts to receiving the consumer; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (c) M|s. Glaxo Labs. India Limited are not manufacturing Ranitidine bulk drug or its formulations however, M|s. Glaxo Laboratories India Limited are reported to have started marketing Ranitidine Tablets manufactured by a sma'l-scale company named M|s. Biotech Pharma, Hyderabad.

(b) The onus of taking price approval, if any, rests with M|s Biotech Pharma. M|s. Biotech Pharma are exempt from obtaining price approval as its sales turnover during the last accounting year was less than Rs. 50 lakhs.

(d) and (e) Non-FERA Companies are free to undertake trading activity and that price exemption is avai'able to M|s. Biotech Pharma in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: Mr. Chairman, Messrs Biotech Pharma, which is neither equipped with a testing laboratory nor qua'ity control unit, is manufacturing Ranitidine tablets. They are importing bulk drugs from their principals. Glaxo International Glaxo Laboratory in India are marketing Ranitidine tab'ets under the brand name of Zinetac tab'ets, costing the consumer Rs 3|- per tablet. My question is, M|s Glaxo has a turnover of several crores of rupees and is not exempt from pricing when marketing it. Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to say whether the Ministry has approved the price of Zinetac tablets fixed by Glaxo, and not the manufacturers; (b) If not, what should be the price of the tablet as per the drug control pricing formula, and (c) how much the consumer is forced to pay for the tablet in excess?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: As per information available with us, M|s. Biotech Pharma is only importing the bulk drug from a company in Switzerland known as Select Chemi. It is not true that they are importing it from their principal company. As for the fixing of price and the DPCO, since Biotech Pharma is a small-scale unit, a small company, it does not come under DPCO of 1979. Glaxo is only marketing the product manufactured by a small-scale company, and the present rules say that only a FERA company—which G'axo is not—is not al'owed to market any product of a small-scale company. In this case, Glaxo is not a FERA company.

DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: On this, I am still making my point specific in my supplementary. It is true that Biotech Pharma is manufacturing and it is a smal'-scale unit. If Biotech Pharma had marketed it, it could get relief, that it comes under Rs 50 lakh category. But it is not marketing. The person who is marketing it is Glaxo and once they market the tablets in the market for the consumer, they have got to come in for pricing if they are above Rs. 50 lakh category. I am very specific.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it a fact that Glaxo is bound by price fixation?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: I have answered it that Glaxo is only marketing it, and being non-FERA company, it is not bound by price fixation. It is true that there is a rule that products being produced by a small-scale unit, are being allowed to be marketed by any company other than Non-FERA company.

DR JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: Sir, I seek your protection. I asked a specific question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Maimoona Sultan.

श्रीमती मैमूना सुल्तान : सर, मैं आपकी इजाजत से मिनिस्टर साहब से गुजारिश करना चाहूंगी कि जहां तक इस का सवाल इस सवाल पर कुछ ज्यादा गुंजायश तो रहती नहीं है, जितना इनको कहना था कह चुके, जितना आपको सुनना था आप सुन चुके यहां तक की प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने भी इन ड्रग्ज की तरह तवज्जह दिलाई है। मैं आपसे सिर्फ यह गुजारिश करूंगी कि ऐसी सूरत मत पैदा होने दीजिये कि लोग कहें :

"हो चुकी है गालिब बलाएं सब तमाम,
बस एक मर्ज़े नादान तुझे याद है।"

अब जहां तक सवाल तालुक का है यह दवा तो है जिसके बारे में डिसूजा साहब ने सवाल किया है यह एक स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री बनाती है और इसको जिनटैक ब्रैंड नाम से बेचती है और ग्लैक्सो सिर्फ मार्कीटिंग कंपनी है। मैं सिर्फ यह कहना चाहूंगी कि चारों तरफ से आप देख लीजिए हर जगह ग्लैक्सो-ग्लैक्सो-ग्लैक्सो है और उसमें यह अंदाजा होता है कि यह जो बेचने वाली कंपनी है यह ग्लैक्सो है और जो मनुफैक्चरिंग बायोटेक फार्मा है उसका इतना जरा सा नाम दिया हुआ है, इसको चीटिंग नहीं तो और क्या कहते हैं और आपका एम० आर० टी० पी० वाले के लिए है ? आपने उसके बारे में क्या एक्शन लिया है और क्या लेने वाले हैं मुझे इतना सा जवाब दीजिए ? साथ ही यह मैं पेश करती हूं आप रख लीजिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not necessary. You cannot produce such things here.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, I share the concern expressed by the honourable Member that this is a provision which is being misused. But there is nothing in law which we can do at present. I will just say something....

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Sir, I seek your protection.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: ... about the background of how it started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear the Minister before you seek my protection. You cannot seek my protection before you have heard the Minister.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: It is because of this and other things that the Government now feels that a new drug policy should be formulated.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: You must have a new drug policy now.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: That is right. We realise that there are a number of provisions which cannot be implemented. There are a number of laws like this and we realise this. It is because of this and for other reasons we feel that a new drug policy should be formulated.

Just to go back a little into details about this, Sir: Some time in 1982, M|s Glaxo Laboratories applied for carrying out a clinical trial in respect of Ranitidine. They had to get a clearance from the Drug Controller's Office for this as it was a new drug if it had to be marketed in our country. Therefore, it took some time. Finally, we rejected that proposal. It was only in August, 1985, when the Drug Controller's Office allowed the marketing of this product that we gave them permission. In the meantime a number of companies, wholly Indian companies also, namely, CIPLA, Jayant Vitamins, Themis Pharmaceuticals etc., these three or four companies, had their registration and their registration was accordingly done, in 1985 and they were allowed to produce this. This Biotech Pharma went into production some time in March this year, actually on the 18th of March this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Sahu.

SHRI RAJANI RANJAN SAHU: Sir, the time left is very little. I would like to place before you something interesting that all along the multinational drug companies, are having an a tack on the quality of Indian small-scale drug units but when these companies get chance of overinvoicing at the cost of the country's valuable foreign exchange and of making profits at the cost of the poor consumer in the country, then these multinationals forget their attack of poor guality of medicine produced by the small-scale sector and start marketing products maufactured by the small-scale sector drug units, the reason being profit, exploitation of the Indian people, transfer of pricing by way of importing bulk drugs from their principals at higher prices, etc. I would like to get an assurance from the honourable Minister that such things will be taken care in the new drug policy. I would like the Minister to give positive assurance right now.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, to give any such blanket assurance will be a very difficult thing for the Government. But I would like to assure the honourable Member and the other Members of this House that the new drug policy will take as much care as possible and will try to solve all these problems. In fact, Sir, I have informed the honourable Members the other day in the Consultative Committee that this new exercise...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not supposed to disclose all that.

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: It is against parliamentary practice. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: I am sorry Sir. The new drug policy will take care of many of the ills that are afflicting the present drug policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Vishvajit Prithvijit Singh.

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to konw specifically from the honourable Minister (a) whether Zenatech, the international brand name of the giant multinational, M|s Glaxo, which is referred to by the Minister, is an Indian company. I would like to know whether it is the international brand name; (b) I would like to know how much money is being paid by the small-scale sector.. (*Interruptions*)..How much money is being paid by the small-scale sector company to M/s. Glaxo Laboratories for allowing them to use this brand name, international brand name; (c) I would like to know... (*Interruptions*)...I think this is enough, Sir. Enough, enough.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, I will not have such information with me. Biotech Pharma is a small-scale unit registered in Hyderabad and the Central Government or my Ministry does not have anything to do with it or with regard to passing on any money by Biotech Pharma to Glaxo Laboratories. How would we have any such information? I do not have any information about it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: After all, Sir, M|s. Glaxo is not a charitable organisation. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the Question Hour is over. Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Attainment of PLF by the NTPC

*86. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Advisory Board on Energy has obser-